

Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission Meeting  
January 22, 2013  
Montgomery, AL

Attendees:

- Michael S. Barton, Alabama Sherriff's Association
- Ernie Blair; Huntsville Madison County 911/Alabama NENA
- Brent Cord; Alabama Forestry Commission
- Cathy Dawson; Alabama Department of Public Safety
- John Goff; Alabama Forestry Commission
- Stephen Grigsby; Alabama National Guard
- Jeb Hargrove; Alabama Emergency Management Agency
- J. T. Johnston; Monroe County EMA
- Michael Lee; Jefferson County 911
- Eric Linsley; 700MHz Region 1 Chair
- Jon Lord; Alabama Fire Chiefs
- Gary Mackey; Alabama Department of Public Health
- Chris McGhee; Poarch Creek Indians
- Roy Mott; Alabama Volunteer Fire
- Charles Murph; Alabama Department of Homeland Security
- Michael Murphy; Department of Homeland Security
- Jim Peterson; Alabama Chiefs of Police
- Russ Prindle; Harris Corporation
- Michael L. Stokes; Alabama Department of Transportation
- Toni Thomas; Alabama Emergency Management Agency
- Walter Steven Thompson; Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**10:05 - Meeting Called to Order**

- Welcome and Introductions by Shirrell Roberts
- Motion to adopt minutes of meeting held October 23, 2012 made by Chief /Seconded by J.T. Johnston.
- Two Subcommittees: State Agencies and Project 25 System Administrators
- Project 25 System Administrators subcommittee met December 12, 2012; elected Michael Lee as Chairman.
- State Agencies subcommittee met December 12, 2012; elected Jeb Hargrove as Chairman.
- **Project 25 System Administrators subcommittee Chairman Michael Lee**
  - Biography
  - Goal is to work within the group to provide Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission strategic guidance on P25 Systems that involve collaboration and connectivity
  - Working on a report to present to the AFWWC within six months to include:
    - Overview of all existing and known plans of future P25 systems in place in the state of Alabama

- All existing connectivity of all P25 systems in place
- Costs and vulnerabilities of existing and future P25 systems
- Recommendation on how to move forward with unified P25 700MHz system
  - Strategy of how to share existing resources
  - List and prioritization of future projects to facilitate connectivity

Questions for Michael Lee:

- Are Project 25 800MHz and 700MHz compatible? Can 800MHz be made to run 700 MHz?
  - Yes they can, with some expense to conversion. Still gathering information on system capability and cost.
- **State Agencies subcommittee Chairman Jeb Hargrove**
- Three objectives in Subcommittee;
  - Document all State owned towers
    - Questionnaire will be sent out to obtain tower information
  - Identify connectivity of site
  - Document and share information among the State Agencies

Questions for Jeb Hargrove:

- Are the GIS maps going to be done in Virtual Alabama?
  - Yes, in Virtual Alabama.

FirstNet - Mike Murphy

- Immediate Goal – Make data mission critical for public safety
- Long Term Goal – Develop mission critical voice over LTE
- Key Challenges
  - Governance
  - Policy
  - Funding
  - Interoperability
- LMR-Land Mobile Radio network security to be a huge issue
- Broadband eliminating the need for land mobile radio communications not happening in the foreseeable future
- Roaming agreement will need to be made with commercial entities
- 100Mbps data speeds are not likely; realistic expectations are needed.
- Auctioning T-Band
- 911 centers must be involved in NG911
- At FirstNet Board of Directors Meeting on September 25, 2012;
  - Selected SAFECOM as Public Service Advisory Committee
  - Requested Spectrum License; FirstNet now owns spectrum
- At FirstNet Network Concept Meeting on September 25, 2012:
  - 133 responses were received form Notice of Inquiry on the Network Concept; Some very good
- At FirstNet Update Meeting held on December 11, 2012
  - Craig Farrill is interim General Manager
  - Any profit will be put back into the project

- Controls to be at the local level; And will take into account state input
- Chairman Jeff Johnson to meet with Governors and IT staffs and Target communications to key leadership within the first quarter of 2013
- Looking at how to incorporate apps
- Todd Early BTOP Chairman; representing fire, police, EMS, etc.
- NPSTC develops standards
- FCC is not going to entertain ruthless preemption in regards to roaming on commercial networks
- FirstNet designed to be a self-sustaining system in regards to on-going funding
- Some In Kind funding accepted state and Local Implementation Grant Program; Some cash needed.
- Investigate PSITS Grant; States are going to have to work with tribal governments.
- Governor of Alabama can decide to opt out; this decision must be well thought out.
- Public Safety is well represented for FirstNet, including rural first responders.
- Alabama Broadband Survey is a 23 question Survey available at [http://publicsafetytools.info/mobile\\_data\\_survey/index.php](http://publicsafetytools.info/mobile_data_survey/index.php)
- Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission Legislation is to transcend Governors administrative changes.
- April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> proposed dates for next Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission Meeting.
- First Responders summer conferences to include FirstNet and Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission; Professional Associations to get 45 minutes to an hour to talk to various first responders meetings about LTE versus Two Way Radio.
- Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission to create PowerPoint to take afield in laymen's terms.
- Outreach is needed to educate mayors, county commissions, etc.
- Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission to know what is wanted of FirstNet; Be prepared and on the same page to quell misinformation and rumors.

#### Closing

- Proposal to build an Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission website to disseminate information, PowerPoint's, etc., in order for one message to go out.
- Forwarding of Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission to the Office of Emergency Communications

**Meeting Adjourned – 11:45am**